Promotion of organic farming

3334. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive plan to promote organic farming in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO N ARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) In order to promote organic farming for export market, the National Steering Committee set up by Ministry of Commerce approved, on 2nd May, 2001, the National Programme for Organic Production under which model organic farms have been set up, awareness programmes have been taken up, standard accreditation procedures, inspection and certification procedures etc. have been finalized.

For further promoting organic farming in the country during the Tenth Plan, a proposal for a new scheme, "National Project on Organic Farming" is under formulation by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, which includes setting up a National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB), whose function will be to promote and facilitate various aspects of organic farming in the country.

Co-operative societies in Rajasthan

3335. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of co-operative societies functioning at present in Rajasthan;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided to them during the last four years; and

(c) the details of items distributed in the State during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) 10930 Cooperative Societies are functioning at present in Rajasthan as reported by the State Government.

(b) The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has released financial assistance of Rs. 2136.69 lakhs, Rs. 655.00 lakhs, Rs. 912.01